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USAID review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
29 March 1971

State Dept. review completed

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PAKISTAN

(Situation as of 1200 EST)

1. The situation in Dacca appears to be relatively quiet. According to instructions issued yesterday on Dacca Radio, curfew was to have been lifted from 0700 to 1700 East Pakistani time today. Martial law authorities announced today a system of passes to let some government workers and foreign diplomats move more freely around the city. The US consul general reported that an estimated 25 percent of workers at the Government of East Pakistan Secretariat were on duty today.

2. The status of the government's Dacca Radio is uncertain. The US Consulate in Calcutta reported late Monday that Dacca Radio had not been heard since 0800 Calcutta time (2130 EST, 28 March). The clandestine radio of East Pakistan, however, had been heard at 1310 and at 1700 Calcutta time. The radio urged Bengalis to resist the enemy and claimed that "liberation forces" had attacked the Dacca radio station.

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4. The situation outside of Dacca remains unclear. The clandestine radio operating in East Pakistan has claimed that forces loyal to Mujibur Rahman control Chittagong, Rangpur, and Jessore, and Indian radio says that West Pakistani troops attacked the town of Kushtia on the night of 28 March. Indian news reports also claim that some US citizens, presumably working for AID, who had been working on an irrigation project in Kushtia, were killed Sunday in a bombing raid, but there has been no confirmation of these reports.

5. Radio Pakistan says the situation in the port city of Chittagong is "improving." The Indian deputy high commissioner in Dacca has told US officials there that a Major Gia of the East Pakistan Rifles (possibly the person variously referred to as Zia and Jia, who allegedly is heading the provisional government of Bangla Desh) had rallied Bengali forces and controlled Chittagong Friday and early Saturday. The Indian official said that the clandestine radio operating from East Pakistan had originated in Chittagong. Heavy fighting apparently took place there Saturday, with perhaps three battalions of the Pakistan Army sent in as reinforcements and the Pakistan Air Force supporting the operation. An air force officer told an AID employee that West Pakistani troops are now in control of key points of the city, but several pockets of resistance remain.

6. In India, meanwhile, there has been increasing pressure to recognize the provisional government of Bengla Desh. On 29 March, Prime Minister Gandhi agreed to move a resolution in the Indian Parliament offering unanimous support to the "freedom struggle" of the East Pakistanis.

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